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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

D.S., a minor by and through his
guardian *ad litem* Elsa Acosta,
individually and as successor-in-interest
to William Salgado; C.S., a minor by
and through his guardian *ad litem* Elsa
Acosta, individually and as successor-
in-interest to William Salgado; J.S., a
minor by and through her guardian *ad
litem* Elsa Acosta, individually and as
successor-in-interest to William
Salgado; M.S., a minor by and through
her guardian *ad litem* Elsa Acosta,
individually and as successor-in-interest
to William Salgado,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK;
NICK NICHOLS; RENE REZA;
MATTHEW RINCON; APRIL
WHEELER; and DOES 5 through 10,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-09412-CBM-AGR

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR DAMAGES**

1. Fourth Amendment, Excessive Force (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
2. Fourth Amendment, Denial of Medical Care (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
3. Fourteenth Amendment, Interference with Familial Relations (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
4. Battery (Wrongful Death)
5. Negligence (Wrongful Death)
6. Violation of Bane Act (Cal. Civil Code §52.1)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 result of the excessive use of less-lethal and deadly force by Defendants NICK
 2 NICHOLS, RENE REZA, MATTHEW RINCON, APRIL WHEELER, and DOES 5-
 3 10; and was also a result of Defendants' failure to provide reasonable medical care to
 4 William Salgado despite William Salgado's serious medical condition after being shot
 5 numerous times; and was a result of Defendants' deliberate indifference to William
 6 Salgado's Constitutional rights.

7 **PARTIES**

8 5. At all relevant times, William Salgado ("DECEDENT") was an individual
 9 residing in the County of Los Angeles, California.

10 6. Plaintiff D.S. ("D.S.") is an individual residing in the County of Los
 11 Angeles, California and is the natural minor child of DECEDENT. D.S. sues both in
 12 his individual capacity as the minor child of DECEDENT and in a representative
 13 capacity as a successor-in-interest to DECEDENT pursuant to California Code of Civil
 14 Procedure §§ 377.30 and 377.60. D.S. seeks both survival and wrongful death damages
 15 under federal and state law.

16 7. Plaintiff C.S. ("C.S.") is an individual residing in the County of Los
 17 Angeles, California and is the natural minor child of DECEDENT. C.S. sues both in
 18 his individual capacity as the minor child of DECEDENT and in a representative
 19 capacity as a successor-in-interest to DECEDENT pursuant to California Code of Civil
 20 Procedure §§ 377.30 and 377.60. C.S. seeks both survival and wrongful death damages
 21 under federal and state law.

22 8. Plaintiff J.S. ("J.S.") is an individual residing in the County of Los
 23 Angeles, California and is the natural minor child of DECEDENT. J.S. sues both in
 24 her individual capacity as the minor child of DECEDENT and in a representative
 25 capacity as a successor-in-interest to DECEDENT pursuant to California Code of Civil
 26 Procedure §§ 377.30 and 377.60. J.S. seeks both survival and wrongful death damages
 27 under federal and state law.

28 9. Plaintiff M.S. ("M.S.") is an individual residing in the County of Los

1 Angeles, California and is the natural minor child of DECEDENT. M.S. sues both in
2 her individual capacity as the minor child of DECEDENT and in a representative
3 capacity as a successor-in-interest to DECEDENT pursuant to California Code of Civil
4 Procedure §§ 377.30 and 377.60. M.S. seeks both survival and wrongful death
5 damages under federal and state law.

6 10. At all relevant times, Defendant CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK
7 (“CITY”) is and was a duly organized public entity, form unknown, existing under the
8 laws of the State of California. CITY is a chartered subdivision of the State of
9 California with the capacity to be sued. CITY is responsible for the actions, omissions,
10 policies, procedures, practices, and customs of its various agents and agencies,
11 including the City of Huntington Park Police Department and its agents and employees.
12 At all relevant times, Defendant CITY was responsible for assuring that the actions
13 omissions, policies, procedures, practices, and customs of the City of Huntington Park
14 Police Department, and its employees and agents complied with the laws of the United
15 States of the State of California. At all relevant times, CITY was the employer of all or
16 some of Defendant DOES 1-10.

17 11. Defendant NICK NICHOLS (“NICHOLS”) was a police officer for the
18 CITY’s Police Department at the time of the incident. NICHOLS was acting under
19 color of law within the course and scope of his employment with the CITY at all
20 relevant times. NICHOLS was acting with the complete authority and ratification of
21 his principal, Defendant CITY.

22 12. Defendant RENE REZA (“REZA”) was a police officer for the CITY’s
23 Police Department at the time of the incident. REZA was acting under color of law
24 within the scope of his employment with the CITY at all relevant times. REZA was
25 acting with the complete authority and ratification of his principal, Defendant CITY.

26 13. Defendant MATTHEW RINCON (“RINCON”) was a police officer for
27 the CITY’s Police Department at the time of the incident. RINCON was acting under
28 color of law within the scope of his employment with the CITY at all relevant times.

1 RINCON was acting with the complete authority and ratification of his principal,
2 Defendant CITY.

3 14. Defendant APRIL WHEELER (“WHEELER”) was a police officer for
4 the CITY’s Police Department at the time of the incident. WHEELER was acting under
5 color of law within the scope of her employment with the CITY at all relevant times.
6 WHEELER was acting with the complete authority and ratification of her principal,
7 Defendant CITY.

8 15. Defendants DOES 5-10 are police officers for the CITY’s Police
9 Department (“DOE OFFICERS”). At all relevant times, DOE OFFICERS were acting
10 under color of law within the course and scope of their duties as officers for the Police
11 Department; and were acting with the complete authority and ratification of their
12 principal, Defendant CITY.

13 16. On information and belief, Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
14 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS were residents of the County of Los Angeles,
15 California at all relevant times.

16 17. In doing the acts, failings, and/or omissions as hereinafter described,
17 Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS were
18 acting on the implied and actual permission and consent of Defendant CITY.

19 18. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, association
20 or otherwise of Defendants DOES 5-10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiffs, who
21 otherwise sue these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will seek leave to
22 amend this complaint to show the true names and capacities of these Defendants when
23 they have been ascertained. Each of the fictiously named Defendants is responsible in
24 some manner for the conduct or liabilities alleged herein.

25 19. Defendants DOES 5-10 are sued in their individual capacities.

26 20. At all times mentioned herein, each and every Defendant, including
27 DOES 5-10, was the agent of each and every other Defendant and had the legal duty
28 to oversee and supervise the hiring, conduct, employment of each and every Defendant.

21. All of the acts complained of herein by Plaintiffs against Defendants, including DOES 5-10, were done and performed by said Defendants by and through their authorized agents, servants, and/or employees, all of whom at all relevant times herein were acting with the course, purpose, and scope of said agency, service, and/or employment capacity. Moreover, Defendants and their agents ratified (or will ratify) all of the acts complained herein.

22. On or around March 15, 2023, Plaintiffs filed comprehensive and timely claims for damages with the City of Huntington Park pursuant to the applicable sections of the California Government Code. Said claims were rejected by operation of law on April 29, 2023. As of the date of the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiffs have not received any rejection or other response from the City of Huntington Park.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

23. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation in the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

24. On or about October 30, 2022, DECEDENT was at his residence located on or about the 6300 block of Malabar Street in the City of Huntington Park, California.

25. On information and belief, NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS arrived at the apartment complex in which DECEDENT's residence was located in response to a 911 call reporting a man armed with a gun.

26. On information and belief, NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS encountered DECEDENT outside of his residence and behaving erratically.

27. On information and belief, DECEDENT was not armed with a gun.

28. On information and belief, WHEELER escalated the situation when she fired a less-lethal 40-milimeter launcher round at DECEDENT without legal justification.

29. On information and belief, DECEDENT then threw an object at an officer who was holding a ballistic shield, which successfully blocked the object.

1 30. On information and belief, DECEDENT then began to run away from
2 NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS.

3 31. On information and belief, while DECEDENT was running away from
4 NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS with his back facing
5 toward them, NICHOLS fired at least one round at DECEDENT using his firearm,
6 REZA fired at least two rounds at DECEDENT using his firearm, RINCON fired at
7 least one round at DECEDENT using his firearm, and WHEELER fired at least one
8 round at DECEDENT using a 40-milimeter less-lethal launcher.

9 32. NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, and WHEELER'S shots struck
10 DECEDENT, causing him serious physical injury, pre-death pain and suffering, and
11 eventually killing him.

12 33. On information and belief, after NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, and
13 WHEELER discharged their weapons and were aware of DECEDENT'S deteriorating
14 physical condition, DEFENDANTS waited several minutes before summoning
15 paramedics to render medical care, and further delayed paramedics' ability to render
16 medical care once they arrived.

17 34. On information and belief, at the time DECEDENT was fatally shot,
18 DECEDENT was not armed with a gun. Further, based on information and belief, at
19 the time of the shooting, DECEDENT was sufficiently far away from any other person
20 such that he was not in striking distance of any other person.

21 35. At the time of DEFENDANTS' uses of deadly and less-lethal force,
22 DECEDENT posed no immediate threat of injury, including death or serious physical
23 injury, to DEFENDANTS, or any other person, because, on information and belief,
24 DECEDENT was running away and was not carrying a gun, and was a safe distance
25 away from all other individuals who were present at the scene.

26 36. On information and belief, DECEDENT never verbally threatened anyone
27 in the moments before deadly and less-lethal force was used by NICHOLS, REZA,
28 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS.

1 37. On information and belief, NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
2 and DOE OFFICERS did not give DECEDENT a verbal warning that less-lethal or
3 deadly force would be used prior to using deadly and less-lethal force against
4 DECEDENT, despite it being feasible to do so, and NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
5 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS did not issue appropriate commands to
6 DECEDENT.

7 38. Despite DECEDENT's erratic behavior indicating that DECEDENT was
8 experiencing a mental health crisis, NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and
9 DOE OFFICERS did not investigate whether DECEDENT was in fact having a mental
10 health crisis, including by summoning any specialized mental health units or teams that
11 were available at the time.

12 39. On information and belief, NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
13 and DOE OFFICERS did not properly assess the situation regarding DECEDENT's
14 mental state; did not employ adequate tactics to de-escalate the situation; did not give
15 DECEDENT sufficient time to comprehend the presence of NICHOLS, REZA,
16 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS at his home; did not develop a tactical
17 plan regarding DECEDENT's mental state; did not speak to DECEDENT in a sensitive
18 and non-threatening manner; and did not give DECEDENT an adequate opportunity to
19 cooperate with instructions.

20 40. On information and belief, DECEDENT did not lunge toward NICHOLS,
21 REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, or DOE OFFICERS; DECEDENT did not move
22 toward NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, or DOE OFFICERS; and
23 DECEDENT did not step forward toward NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
24 or DOE OFFICERS.

25 41. On information and belief, NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
26 and DOE OFFICERS did not employ tactics to de-escalate the situation; failed to give
27 DECEDENT time and space to understand and accept the presence of NICHOLS,
28 REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS; failed to approach and speak to

1 DECEDENT in a non-threatening manner; and failed to give DECEDENT the
2 opportunity to consent to and cooperate with any instruction NICHOLS, REZA,
3 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS provided.

4 42. On information and belief, NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
5 and DOE OFFICERS were capable of neutralizing and/or effectuating the seizure of
6 DECEDENT using any of a variety of readily available less-than-lethal means or
7 strategies. The force used by NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
8 OFFICERS was unnecessary, excessive, and unreasonable under the totality of the
9 circumstances.

10 43. NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS fatally
11 shot DECEDENT even though he did not pose an immediate threat of death or serious
12 bodily injury to the officers or anyone else at the time they fired and even though there
13 were other less lethal options available. NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
14 and DOE OFFICERS did not show reverence for human life. NICHOLS, REZA,
15 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS are responsible for every single shot they
16 fired and this was not an immediate defense of life situation.

17 44. On information and belief, DECEDENT did not have a firearm and never
18 pointed a firearm at Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
19 OFFICERS, or anyone else, prior to being fatally shot.

20 45. Plaintiff D.S. is DECEDENT's successor-in-interest as defined in Section
21 377.11 of the California Code of Civil Procedure and succeeds to DECEDENT's interest
22 in this action as the natural child of DECEDENT.

23 46. Plaintiff C.S. is DECEDENT's successor-in-interest as defined in Section
24 377.11 of the California Code of Civil Procedure and succeeds to DECEDENT's interest
25 in this action as the natural child of DECEDENT.

26 47. Plaintiff J.S. is DECEDENT's successor-in-interest as defined in Section
27 377.11 of the California Code of Civil Procedure and succeeds to DECEDENT's interest
28 in this action as the natural child of DECEDENT.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

6 (By All Plaintiffs against Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and
7 DOE OFFICERS)

49. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation in the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

50. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS used excessive force against DECEDENT when they shot him several times with their firearms and with less-lethal weapons. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS' unjustified use of force deprived DECEDENT of his right to be secure in his person against unreasonable searches and seizures as guaranteed to DECEDENT under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and applied to state actors by the Fourteenth Amendment.

51. The shooting was excessive and unreasonable, and DECEDENT posed no immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury to anyone at the time of the shooting. Further, Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS' shooting and use of force violated their training and standard police officer training.

52. As a result of NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER and DOE OFFICERS' unjustified use of force against DECEDENT, DECEDENT suffered extreme pain and suffering and emotional distress up to the time of his death, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of life, and loss of earning capacity. Plaintiffs have also been deprived of the life-long love, companionship, comfort, support, society, care, and sustenance of DECEDENT, and will continue to be so deprived for the remainder of their natural lives.

53. As a result of the conduct of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,

1 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, they are liable for DECEDENT's injuries, either
 2 because they were integral participants in the use of excessive force, and/or because
 3 they failed to intervene to prevent these violations.

4 54. The conduct of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
 5 and DOE OFFICERS was willful, wanton, malicious, and done with reckless disregard
 6 for the rights and safety of DECEDENT and therefore warrants the imposition of
 7 exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
 8 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS.

9 55. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful death of DECEDENT,
 10 Plaintiffs suffered the loss of love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance,
 11 protection, affection, society, financial support, moral support, and guidance of
 12 DECEDENT. Accordingly, Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
 13 and DOE OFFICERS are liable to Plaintiffs for wrongful death damages under 42
 14 U.S.C. § 1983.

15 56. Plaintiffs also bring this claim as successors-in-interest to DECEDENT
 16 and seek survival damages, including pre-death pain and suffering, emotional distress,
 17 loss of life, and loss of enjoyment of life, for the violation of DECEDENT's rights.
 18 Plaintiffs also seek wrongful death damages.

19 57. Plaintiffs also seek attorney's fees and costs under this claim.

20 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

21 **Fourth Amendment — Denial of Medical Care (42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

22 (By All Plaintiffs against Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and
 23 DOE OFFICERS)

24 58. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation in the foregoing
 25 paragraphs of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

26 59. The denial of medical care by Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
 27 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS deprived DECEDENT of his right to be secure in
 28 his persons against unreasonable searches and seizures as guaranteed to DECEDENT

1 under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and applied to state
2 actors by the Fourteenth Amendment.

3 60. After the use of deadly and less-lethal force by NICHOLS, REZA,
4 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, DECEDENT had obvious injuries and
5 was bleeding profusely. Nevertheless, Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
6 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS failed to provide needed medical care to
7 DECEDENT, failed to timely summon needed medical care for DECEDENT,
8 prevented medical care personnel from timely treating DECEDENT, and refused to
9 permit medical care personnel to access and care for DECEDENT at the scene for an
10 appreciable time after the incident.

11 61. As a result, DECEDENT suffered extreme mental and physical pain and
12 suffering up to the time of his death, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of life, and loss of
13 earning capacity.

14 62. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
15 OFFICERS knew that failure to provide timely medical treatment to DECEDENT
16 could result in further significant injury, the unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain,
17 or death, but disregarded that serious medical need, causing DECEDENT great bodily
18 harm and death.

19 63. The conduct of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
20 and DOE OFFICERS was willful, wanton, malicious, and done with reckless disregard
21 for the rights and safety of DECEDENT and therefore warrants the imposition of
22 exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
23 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS.

24 64. As a result of the conduct of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
25 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, they are liable for DECEDENT's injuries, either
26 because they were integral participants in the denial of medical care, and/or because
27 they failed to intervene to prevent these violations.

28 65. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful death of DECEDENT,

1 Plaintiffs suffered the loss of love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance,
2 protection, affection, society, financial support, moral support, and guidance of
3 DECEDENT, and will continue to be so deprived for the remainder of their natural
4 lives. Accordingly, Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
5 OFFICERS are liable to Plaintiffs for wrongful death damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

6 66. Plaintiffs also bring this claim as successors-in-interest to DECEDENT
7 and seek survival damages, including pre-death pain and suffering, emotional distress,
8 loss of life, and loss of enjoyment of life, for the violation of DECEDENT's rights.

9 67. Plaintiffs also seek attorney's fees and costs under this claim.

10 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

11 **Fourteenth Amendment — Interference with Familial Relations**

12 **(42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

13 (By All Plaintiffs against Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and
14 DOE OFFICERS)

15 68. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation in the foregoing
16 paragraphs of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

17 69. D.S. had a cognizable interest under the Due Process Clause of the
18 Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution to be free from state actions
19 that deprive him of life, liberty, or property in such a manner as to shock the
20 conscience, including but not limited to unwarranted state interference in D.S.'s
21 familial relationship with his father, DECEDENT.

22 70. C.S. had a cognizable interest under the Due Process Clause of the
23 Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution to be free from state actions
24 that deprive him of life, liberty, or property in such a manner as to shock the
25 conscience, including but not limited to unwarranted state interference in C.S.'s
26 familial relationship with his father, DECEDENT.

27 71. J.S. had a cognizable interest under the Due Process Clause of the
28 Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution to be free from state actions

1 that deprive her of life, liberty, or property in such a manner as to shock the conscience,
2 including but not limited to unwarranted state interference in J.S.'s familial relationship
3 with her father, DECEDENT.

4 72. M.S. had a cognizable interest under the Due Process Clause of the
5 Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution to be free from state actions
6 that deprive her of life, liberty, or property in such a manner as to shock the conscience,
7 including but not limited to unwarranted state interference in M.S.'s familial
8 relationship with her father, DECEDENT.

9 73. The aforementioned actions of NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON,
10 WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, along with other undiscovered conduct, shock the
11 conscience, in that NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS
12 acted with deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of Plaintiffs, and with
13 purpose to harm unrelated to any legitimate law enforcement objective.

14 74. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of NICHOLS, REZA,
15 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, DECEDENT experienced pain and
16 suffering and eventually died. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
17 and DOE OFFICERS thus violated the substantive due process rights of Plaintiffs to
18 be free from unwarranted interference with their familial relationship with
19 DECEDENT.

20 75. As a direct and proximate cause of the acts of NICHOLS, REZA,
21 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, Plaintiffs suffered extreme and severe
22 emotional distress, mental anguish, and pain. Plaintiffs have also been deprived of the
23 life-long love, companionship, comfort, support, society, care, and sustenance of
24 DECEDENT, and will continue to be so deprived for the remainder of their natural
25 lives.

26 76. The conduct of NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
27 OFFICERS was willful, wanton, malicious, and done with reckless disregard for the
28 rights and safety of DECEDENT and therefore warrants the imposition of exemplary

1 and punitive damages as to Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
2 and DOE OFFICERS.

3 77. Plaintiff D.S. brings this claim individually for the interference with his
4 relationship with his father DECEDENT and seeks wrongful death damages for the
5 violation of Plaintiff D.S.'s rights.

6 78. Plaintiff C.S. brings this claim individually for the interference with his
7 relationship with his father DECEDENT and seeks wrongful death damages for the
8 violation of Plaintiff C.S.'s rights.

9 79. Plaintiff J.S. brings this claim individually for the interference with her
10 relationship with her father DECEDENT and seeks wrongful death damages for the
11 violation of Plaintiff J.S.'s rights.

12 80. Plaintiff M.S. brings this claim individually for the interference with her
13 relationship with her father DECEDENT and seeks wrongful death damages for the
14 violation of Plaintiff M.S.'s rights.

15 81. Plaintiffs also seek attorney's fees under this claim.

16 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

17 **Battery (Cal. Govt. Code § 820 and California Common Law)**

18 **(Wrongful Death/Survival)**

19 (By all Plaintiffs against all Defendants)

20 71. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation in the foregoing
21 paragraphs of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

22 72. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
23 OFFICERS, while working as police officers for the CITY Police Department, and
24 acting within the course and scope of their duties, intentionally shot DECEDENT
25 several times with lethal and less-lethal weapons and used unreasonable and excessive
26 force against him. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
27 OFFICERS had no legal justification for using deadly and less-lethal force against
28

1 DECEDENT, and their use of force while carrying out their duties as police officers
2 was an unreasonable and non-privileged use of force.

3 73. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of Defendants NICHOLS,
4 REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS as alleged above, DECEDENT
5 sustained injuries and experienced extreme mental and physical pain and suffering,
6 loss of enjoyment of life, and ultimately died from his injuries and lost earning
7 capacity.

8 74. CITY is vicariously liable for the wrongful acts of NICHOLS, REZA,
9 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS pursuant to section 815.2(a) of the
10 California Government Code, which provides that a public entity is liable for the
11 injuries caused by its employees within the scope of the employment if the employee's
12 act would subject him or her to liability.

13 75. The conduct of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
14 and DOE OFFICERS was malicious, wanton, oppressive, and accomplished with a
15 conscious disregard for the rights of DECEDENT, entitling Plaintiffs, as successors-
16 in-interest to DECEDENT, to an award of exemplary and punitive damages as to
17 Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS.

18 76. Plaintiff D.S. brings this claim individually and as successor-in-interest
19 to DECEDENT. Plaintiff D.S. seeks survival damages, including pain and suffering,
20 and wrongful death damages under this claim.

21 77. Plaintiff C.S. brings this claim individually and as successor-in-interest
22 to DECEDENT. Plaintiff C.S. seeks survival damages, including pain and suffering,
23 and wrongful death damages under this claim.

24 78. Plaintiff J.S. brings this claim individually and as successor-in-interest to
25 DECEDENT. Plaintiff J.S. seeks survival damages, including pain and suffering, and
26 wrongful death damages under this claim.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(By all Plaintiffs against all Defendants)

81. Police officers, including Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, have a duty to use reasonable care to prevent harm or injury to others. This duty includes using appropriate tactics, giving appropriate commands, giving warnings, not using any force unless necessary, using less-than-lethal options, and only using deadly force as a last resort.

5 82. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
6 OFFICERS breached this duty of care. On information and belief, the actions and
7 inactions of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE
8 OFFICERS were negligent, including but not limited to:

- 9 a. The failure to properly and adequately assess the need to use
10 force or deadly force against DECEDENT;
11 b. The negligent tactics and handling of the situation with
12 DECEDENT, including pre-shooting negligence;
13 c. The negligent use of force, including deadly force, against
14 DECEDENT;
15 d. The failure to promptly provide or summon medical care to
16 DECEDENT;
17 e. The failure to give a verbal warning or any kind of command
18 prior to shooting;

1 f. The negligent handling of evidence and witnesses; and

2 g. The negligent communication of information during the incident.

3 83. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA,
4 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS' conduct as alleged above, and other
5 undiscovered negligent conduct, DECEDENT was caused to suffer extreme mental
6 and physical pain and suffering and ultimately died and lost earning capacity. Also as
7 a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct as alleged above, Plaintiffs
8 suffered extreme and severe mental anguish. Plaintiffs also have also been deprived of
9 the life-long love, companionship, comfort, support, society, care, and sustenance of
10 DECEDENT, and will continue to be so deprived for the remainder of their natural
11 lives.

12 84. CITY is vicariously liable for the wrongful acts of NICHOLS, REZA,
13 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS pursuant to section 815.2(a) of the
14 California Government Code, which provides that a public entity is liable for the
15 injuries caused by its employees within the scope of the employment if the employee's
16 act would subject him or her to liability.

17 85. Plaintiff D.S. brings this claim individually and as successor-in-interest
18 to DECEDENT. Plaintiff D.S. seeks survival damages, including pain and suffering,
19 and wrongful death damages under this claim.

20 86. Plaintiff C.S. brings this claim individually and as successor-in-interest
21 to DECEDENT. Plaintiff C.S. seeks survival damages, including pain and suffering,
22 and wrongful death damages under this claim.

23 87. Plaintiff J.S. brings this claim individually and as successor-in-interest to
24 DECEDENT. Plaintiff J.S. seeks survival damages, including pain and suffering, and
25 wrongful death damages under this claim.

26 88. Plaintiff M.S. brings this claim individually and as successor-in-interest
27 to DECEDENT. Plaintiff M.S. seeks survival damages, including pain and suffering,
28 and wrongful death damages under this claim.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violation of Bane Act (Cal. Civil Code § 52.1)

(By all Plaintiffs against all Defendants)

89. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every allegation in the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

90. California Civil Code, Section 52.1 (the Bane Act), prohibits any person from using violent acts or threatening to commit violent acts in retaliation against another person for that person's exercise of their constitutional rights.

91. On information and belief, Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS, while working for the CITY and acting within the course and scope of their duties, intentionally committed and attempted to commit acts of violence against DECEDENT, including by shooting him with lethal and less-lethal weapons without justification or excuse, and by denying him necessary medical care.

92. When Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS shot DECEDENT, they interfered with his civil rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, to due process, to medical care, to be free from state actions that shock the conscience, and to life and liberty.

93. On information and belief, Defendants intentionally committed the above acts to discourage DECEDENT from exercising his civil rights, to retaliate against him for invoking such rights, or to prevent him from exercising such rights, which DECEDENT was fully entitled to enjoy.

94. On information and belief, DECEDENT reasonably believed and understood that the violent acts committed by Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS were intended to discourage him from exercising the above civil rights, to retaliate against him for invoking such rights, or to prevent him from exercising such rights.

95. Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS successfully interfered with the above civil rights of DECEDENT.

1 96. The conduct of Defendants NICHOLS, REZA, RINCON, WHEELER,
2 and DOE OFFICERS was a substantial factor in causing DECEDENT's harms, losses,
3 injuries, and damages.

4 97. CITY is vicariously liable for the wrongful acts of NICHOLS, REZA,
5 RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS pursuant to section 815.2(a) of the
6 California Government Code, which provides that a public entity is liable for the
7 injuries caused by its employees within the scope of the employment if the employee's
8 act would subject him or her to liability.

9 98. The conduct of DOE OFFICERS was malicious, wanton, oppressive, and
10 accomplished with a conscious disregard for the rights of DECEDENT, entitling
11 Plaintiffs to an award of exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants NICHOLS,
12 REZA, RINCON, WHEELER, and DOE OFFICERS.

13 99. Plaintiff D.S. brings this claim as successor-in-interest to DECEDENT
14 and seeks survival damages, including emotional distress, loss of life, loss of
15 enjoyment of life, and pain and suffering under this claim.

16 100. Plaintiff C.S. brings this claim as successor-in-interest to DECEDENT
17 and seeks survival damages, including emotional distress, loss of life, loss of
18 enjoyment of life, and pain and suffering under this claim.

19 101. Plaintiff J.S. brings this claim as successor-in-interest to DECEDENT
20 and seeks survival damages, including emotional distress, loss of life, loss of
21 enjoyment of life, and pain and suffering under this claim.

22 102. Plaintiff M.S. brings this claim as successor-in-interest to DECEDENT
23 and seeks survival damages, including emotional distress, loss of life, loss of
24 enjoyment of life, and pain and suffering under this claim.

25 103. Plaintiffs also seek treble damages, costs, and attorney's fees under this
26 claim.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs D.S., a minor by and through his guardian *ad litem* Elsa Acosta, individually and as successor-in-interest to William Salgado; C.S., a minor by and through his guardian *ad litem* Elsa Acosta, individually and as successor-in-interest to William Salgado; J.S., a minor by and through her guardian *ad litem* Elsa Acosta, individually and as successor-in-interest to William Salgado; and M.S., a minor by and through her guardian *ad litem* Elsa Acosta, individually and as successor-in-interest to William Salgado, request entry of judgment in their favor and against Defendants CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK, NICK NICHOLS, RENE REZA, MATTHEW RINCON, APRIL WHEELER, and DOES 5-10, inclusive, as follows:

- A. For compensatory damages, including both survival and wrongful death damages under federal and state law, in an amount to be proven at trial;
- B. For loss of financial support;
- C. For punitive damages against the individual defendants in an amount to be proven at trial;
- D. For statutory damages;
- E. For treble damages pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 52, 52.1;
- F. For interest;
- G. For reasonable attorney's fees, including litigation expenses;
- H. For costs of suit; and
- I. For such further other relief as the Court may deem just, proper, and appropriate.

DATED: July 8, 2024

LAW OFFICES OF DALE K. GALIPO

By: /s/ Dale K. Galipo

Dale K. Galipo
Benjamin S. Levine
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

The Plaintiffs named herein hereby demand a trial by jury.

DATED: July 8, 2024

LAW OFFICES OF DALE K. GALIPO

By: /s/ Dale K. Galipo

Dale K. Galipo

Benjamin S. Levine

Attorneys for Plaintiffs